



National
Guard
Bureau

FAMILY PROGRAM BULLETIN

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Enhancing Readiness Through Communication

Virginia Coordinator Wins Top Award

by Capt. Beth Miller
NGB Family Program Office

Major Greg Simpson, the State Family Program Coordinator for Virginia, was recently selected as the National Guard Family Readiness Coordinator of the Year. Simpson received the award from Major General Raymond F. Rees, Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau, in a ceremony on November 11 in Washington, DC.

"I was very surprised," said Simpson. "I didn't even know that I had been nominated. But, Ms. Lee gave me the good news." Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, chief, National Guard Bureau Family Program office, noted that Simpson had a particularly challenging year with the tragic loss in the Air National Guard Red Horse unit as well as the deployment of the 29th Infantry Division to Bosnia.

"Greg is one of the most hard-working people I know," said Lee. "He deserves to be recognized for all his dedication to and compassion for all our National Guard families. We are extremely proud of him."

Each state has a Family Readiness Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring family support programs are in place and responsive to the need of National Guard families in their respective state.

Simpson has been the state coordinator in Virginia for almost four years. "The best part of my job," he said, "is being able to get assistance to the families when they need it." All the events



Courtesy photo

Major Greg Simpson (left) stands with Ms Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, Chief, National Guard Bureau Family Program office, after being named as Coordinator of the Year.

of this past year have made for some very challenging times for families of National Guard members. "It's really great when a soldier, airmen or family member tells you that you were able to help them through a crisis," says Simpson.

The biggest challenge when a Guard member gets mobilized is to ensure that they understand the benefits which are afforded to them, said Simpson. Although their benefits have expanded somewhat in the past couple of years, they have needs that still need to be met, such as improved healthcare.

"We're on the road, said Simpson, "but we're not quite there." There has been a dramatic change for soldiers, airmen and their families resulting in new missions almost everyday, said Simpson. And, he's going to be there, taking care of families.

There are two areas he would like to concentrate on in the future for his state's program. One area is to focus on the youth program and the other is to create a better system for recognizing and giving awards to family program volunteers in his state.

From Ms. Lee's Desk...

It's been a long, tough year. We have had increased deployments among our soldiers and airmen abroad and at home. We've had experienced coordinators and staff members moving on to the next point in their careers.

However, the longest, toughest day we experienced this year was brought about by the worst mankind had to offer. The horrific terrorism that befell our nation was indeed the most mournful of times.

But through all the sadness and grief we've felt as fellow Americans, we can also find joy. Christmas and Hanukkah will be here soon and want I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Many of you may wonder how difficult it may be to feel merry and happy during this holiday season. How can we celebrate while remembering about all the innocent lives lost and affected recently?

What I can tell you is that we should all remember those who perished on that fateful day in September as we celebrate. We can celebrate the fact that life that they an impact on all of us. Remember that life is precious and that each life is truly a gift.

Remember those who fell whether it be the civilians going to work, the passengers on the airplanes or the rescue workers performing their duties. We can also remember the reason for the greatness of this land. Though Thanksgiving Day has passed, let's give thanks for the liberties we all share. We enjoy freedom of speech, the freedom to assemble, the freedom to bear arms and so much more.

Why can we be merry now? We can be merry because we have the freedom to worship when and where we want. We can be merry because we have the freedom to walk down the street and not be afraid of our own government. We can be merry because we have a military that provides a blanket of security even in the scariest of times.

We can be happy that the children of this country will learn about democracy. We can be happy because we have the means to care for one another. We can be happy because we still live in the greatest nation on earth.

Buying presents in department stores and all the stress that is included with that is for nothing if we don't slow down and validate those people we know and love right here, right now. None of us knows what tomorrow may bring. What started as an ordinary day in September changed in an instance for thousands of people going about their daily lives. Don't let tragedy strike to make you remember what is important.

The role you fill daily in the lives of our National Guard members and their families is vital. We couldn't help the thousands of servicemembers without you, our coordinators and volunteers. You are in many ways a messenger of hope to what may seem a hopeless situation. While you celebrate this holiday season with your families, there are many families across America thinking of you with gratitude.

May you have the peace and the magic of this holiday season in your home. God bless you and God bless America!

Operation 'Dear Abby' Is Suspended This Holiday Season

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Oct. 30, 2001 - Military postal officials have reluctantly ended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service Member" postal programs due to the anthrax threat.

Alan F. Estevez, acting assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for transportation policy, suspended the two programs in a signed Oct. 30 memorandum to the Military Postal Service Agency. The memo formalizes an interim agency suspension issued Oct. 16. Effective immediately, mail will no longer be accepted for these anonymous-sender programs.

The Dear Abby program, founded by the newspaper advice columnist, has delivered mail to U.S. service members overseas during the holiday season for 17 years. "Any Service Member" mail grew out of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, but really cranked up during the U.S. assistance to Bosnia in 1995, officials said.

Both programs let U.S. service members overseas know that fellow Americans support them and appreciate their sacrifices.

A written notice from the Military Postal Service Agency said the most critical issue surrounding these mail programs is personnel safety. "Both of these programs create an avenue to introduce mail into the system from un-

known sources," the notice said. "The recent mail-related attacks have demonstrated the vulnerability of the postal system."

Mail handling has become more sensitive and time consuming, said officials, and the increased volume of mail that would result from the Dear Abby and Any Service Member programs could impact the quality of military postal service and force protection.

U.S. Postal Service officials said a ton of letter mail equals about 71,000 typical first-class letters.

For more information about military mail, 2001 holiday season mailing schedules and more, visit the Military Postal Service Agency Web site at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/main.htm>.

Art Contest for Military Children Ends in January

by Andree Swanson
Special to the American Forces
Press Service

SPRINGFIELD, Va., November 2001 -- The Armed Services YMCA wants military youngsters' entries for its 2002 art contest and readers' essay contest.

Art Contest 2002, in its seventh year, seeks artwork from children in kindergarten through sixth grade depicting their active-duty, Guard or Reserve military families.

Top prizes are \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds, and the winners' artwork will be printed on posters for worldwide distribution next year in observance of Military Family Week. Children of Defense Department and Coast Guard civilians may enter in an honorary category. Entry deadline is Jan. 28, 2002.

The poster for this year's Military Family Week observance, Nov. 18-25, features the winning art of Heather Burke, daughter of Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert and Marietta Burke of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Also featured on the poster are smaller panels by service-level winners, Maureen Argo, daughter of Navy Cmdr. Michael and Margaret Argo of Stuttgart, Germany; Krizzia Castro, daughter of Army Staff Sgt. Omar and Veronica Castro of Fort Riley, Kan.; Angelica Gates, daughter of Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Stephan and Gina Gates of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; Dane Krull, son of Maj. Rich and Stephanie Krull of Indiana Air National Guard; and Keeya Singer, daughter of Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Douglas and Vicki Singer of Humboldt Bay, Calif.

Entry deadline for the 2002 Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest is March 18. The contest highlights the joys of reading and should be on any subject related to reading. In its sixth year, it's open to first- through 12th-graders and offers Savings Bond prizes of up to \$1,000. Children of active-duty, reserve and retired members of the uniformed services and of DoD, Coast Guard and American Mission civilian employees can enter.

Full contest guidelines are on the web site at: www.asymca.org or they can be obtained by sending an e-mail note to: essaycontest@asymca.org or: MilitaryFamilyWeek@asymca.org; or calling 703-866-1260.

(Andree Swanson works for the Armed Services YMCA in Springfield, Va.)

Commissary Scholarships Open for Business

by Bonnie Powell
National Guard Bureau

FORT LEE, Va. -- Don't be like those holiday shoppers who wait until the last minute. Applications and fact sheets for the 2002 **Scholarships for Military Children** program will be available Nov. 1 at your local commissary and at www.commissaries.com. The deadline for filing completed applications for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 5, 2002, so try and get yours in early!

"The response from military families to the 2001 program was fantastic," said Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Director, Air Force Major General Robert J. Courter Jr. "Over 5,000 students applied for the scholarships, and through the generosity of our industry partners nearly 400 scholarships were awarded. We anticipate receiving double the applications and making even more scholarship awards in 2002."

The \$1,500 scholarships are funded through industry donations and the program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation through a professional scholarship evaluation company. Fisher House is known for building and donating fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities where families of patients receiving medical care can stay at a reasonable cost.

Children of U.S. military ID card holders, to include active duty, retirees, and Guard and reserves, may apply for the scholarships. Eligibility of applicants, including survivors of

deceased members, will be determined using the DoD ID Card Directive. Applicants may be college-bound high school seniors, or students already enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program.

Students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and write an essay that describes how his or her activities have enriched the community.

A military ID may still have to be shown at the commissary for entry due to heightened security, but the ID is no longer needed as proof of eligibility when the application is turned in at the commissary. Applicants will be checked through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) prior to the awarding of scholarships, so sponsors should ensure that their children are enrolled in DEERS prior to applying. In addition, students who don't live close to a commissary will be able to mail their applications to the nearest store location.

"We advise hand delivery to the nearest commissary or the commissary where you shop regularly, but if you do mail it in, you might want to send it by some form of delivery that requires a return signature," says Hoogewind. "In addition, if the applicant includes a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the forms, scholarship managers will acknowledge receipt of the application."

Details on the program can be found at the "What's New" link www.commissaries.com. The application and frequently asked questions can be accessed on the web site.

President Signs Proclamation for ESGR Week

by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Washington, DC -- President George W. Bush promised on November's second Friday to immediately reinforce airline security for holiday travelers with additional National Guard troops while praising employers for letting their workers who belong to the Guard and Reserves serve in the war against terrorism.

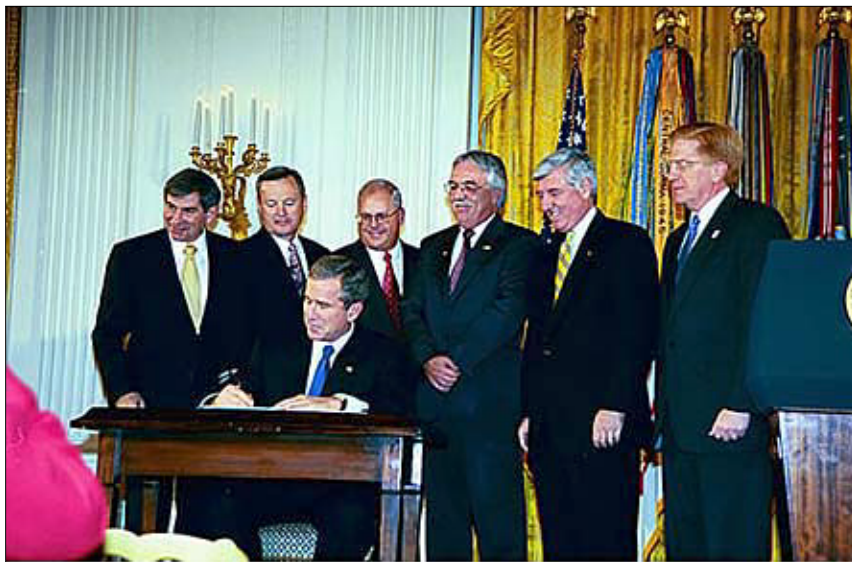
The former Texas governor and Air National Guard fighter pilot said he has ordered 25 percent more Guard troops called up for airport duty in addition to the more than 6,000 who have been supporting civil authorities at 424 commercial airports since Sept. 27.

That will increase the Army and Air National Guard's presence at the airports to about 8,000 troops through the holiday period and, the White House said, would enable the Guard members to expand their duties to include patrolling garages and curbsides in addition to monitoring security checkpoints.

The president announced the temporary measure in the East Room packed with National Guard and Reserve leaders at the White House before signing a proclamation declaring Nov. 12-18 as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

Bush also recognized five American employers that have won this year's regional Secretary of Defense Freedom Awards, the highest honors presented each year since 1996 in concert with the National Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

"We are fighting the war on many fronts. And we could not win the war without the help of the Guard and the Reservists," said Bush of the war that began with the jetliner attacks on Sept. 11 and that has been escalated on the home front by anthrax spores sent through the mail.



ESGR photo by PO2 Patricia Findley

President George W. Bush (seated) signs a proclamation on Nov. 9 declaring Nov. 11-17 ESGR Week as special guests look on.

"They in turn could not do their vital work without the support of their employers," added Bush about the 54,688 members of the seven reserve forces who had been pressed into service at home and abroad by Nov. 9.

"Many employers are putting national interests above their own self interests," said Bush, praising those that are providing full pay and benefits and job security for workers performing full-time military duty.

"These employers do these things because they recognize that their workers are fighting to keep America free," the president added.

This year's regional Freedom Award winners are Electronic Data Systems (EDS) from Michigan, BAE Systems from New Hampshire, Southwest Airlines from New Mexico, the city of Bedford from Virginia, and the Boeing Company from Washington state.

They represent the north central, north-east, south central, southeast, and western parts of the country. They were selected from 29 organizations nominated from 28 states and the District of Columbia.

Coincidentally, the National Guard has designated 2001 as the Year of the Employer, pointed out Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

In all, 42,720 members of the Army and Air National Guard are engaged in "Noble Eagle" homeland defense missions and "Enduring Freedom" operations overseas or have been factored into the partial mobilization force authorized by Bush on Sept. 14, three days after hijacked jetliners crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"To be sure, the mobilization of such a large number of Reserve and Guard members create hardships for many of the nation's businesses," observed Greg Lebedev, chief operating officer for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, during a Nov. 9 breakfast honoring the five winners in Washington, D.C. "Reservists and Guard members are for many companies the brightest, the most dependable and the most committed employees.

But, he added, "the business com-

Continued

See ESGR, Page 5

New York, North Carolina Join Forces

Immediately after the tragic events that occurred on September 11th, Debi Miller, a Dudley Shoals School teacher received a special request from Mrs. Lil Ingram. Mrs. Ingram is the wife of the NCNG Adjutant General. She requested that all regional Family Readiness Managers send cards to the New York National Guard (NYNG) that had been activated. Ms. Miller told the principal, Mr. Tucker, about the idea and he wholeheartedly approved.

The following week, the art teacher, Mrs. West, had all of the children create cards for the service members of the NYNG. Over 500 cards were collected and sorted between over 40 different activated units of the NYNG. On October 9, 2001, the cards were mailed. Along with the cards, a cover letter introduced the school and explained the project.

The response from the service members was overwhelming. The first response arrived by e-mail on October 12, 2001 from SGT Rene'e DeRouche from the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo, NY. Since then, Dudley Shoals received responses from the 27th Support Center, the 133rd Maintenance Company, the 206th Corps Support Battalion, individual letters from the service members of Stratton Air National Guard Base, and the 827th Engineer Company.

On Sunday, October 21, 2001, Ms. Miller received a telephone call from Major Bryer of the 369th Corps Support Battalion in New York City. He had received a faxed copy of her letter and stated he had not received any cards. The unit activated at 11:15 on September 11th. The unit had lost two soldiers that worked in the World Trade Center and he had

personally lost a cousin who also worked there. The unit was planning on holding a memorial service on October 28, 2001, and wanted cards to place on their memorial wall. He stated that he would personally recognize the Dudley Shoals students at the service for their compassion for the service members in the NYNG. Needless to say, after such a request, Ms. Miller's class made more cards for the service members.

On October 2, 2001, the school received a special response to the cards. Brigadier General Edward G. Klein of the NYNG sent a thank you letter to the students on behalf of over four thousand service members who have helped in the rescue and support mission in New York City. Sent with the letter was a Certificate of Appreciation to the Students of Dudley Shoals Elementary School in recognition of their "Thoughtful Wishes and Meaningful Thanks" to the service members during "Operation Trade Center."

In these trying times, the students of Dudley Shoals Elementary School have shown the New York National Guard members the true meaning of patriotism. The students have touched the lives of many service members with their compassionate cards of appreciation. Like wise the students' lives have been touched by their responses. In our daily life, let us not forget those who are still recovering from this tragedy, as well as those men and women who are protecting the citizens of the United States.

(Submitted by Debi Miller. Mrs. Miller is a North Carolina National Guard Family Readiness Regional Manager. She actively works to promote healthy Guard ready families.)

ESGR

Continued from Page 4

munity recognizes ... that you can't have economic prosperity without national security."

That, Lebedev said, is why the chamber is supporting ESGR's efforts to honor employers and is taking "an aggressive role in the national security policy."

ESGR, chartered by the Defense Department in 1972, strives to foster good relations between the seven reserve components and civilian employers and to keep all parties informed about the provisions and benefits of the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

President Richard Nixon and every subsequent commander-in-chief "has formally recognized the vital role played by the members of our National Guard and Reserve and the civilian employers who support them," said Thomas Irwin, the ESGR's national chairman.

"The reserve components make up nearly 50 percent of the U.S. armed forces," Irwin added, "and civilian em-

ployers are playing an increasingly critical role in national defense as their military employees serve in worldwide missions."

"Employers are square one," offered Craig Duehring, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "You lose the employers, you lose the Guard and the Reservists. You lose the Guard and the Reservists, the total force package unravels and you lose your force. You lose your force and you lose the war."

BAE Systems provides up to 60 days of benefits and offers indefinite employment for those among its 75 Guard and Reserve workers who get called to active duty.

Southwest Airlines continues civilian pay for its employees while they are on active duty, and EDS offers to continue company pay for workers who would make less money from the military.

Boeing, which employs 3,000 reservists, has established a Guard and Reserve Network so all employees can get information about the reserve forces.

Flu, Anthrax Share Symptoms But Have Key Differences

by Jim Caldwell

FORT MONROE, Va. (Army News Service, Oct. 31, 2001)

- With the approach of flu season, an Army doctor said people who contract the virus may instead fear they are infected with anthrax.

"That's because the symptoms of flu are similar to the early symptoms of those reported in people infected by the terror weapon," said Col. Bernard DeKoning, command surgeon for the Training and Doctrine Command.

"So, not all symptoms of 'the flu' are caused by influenza or anthrax," he said. "A subtle, but perhaps helpful distinction is that anthrax normally doesn't cause a runny nose or a 'productive cough.'"

A productive cough brings up mucous or drainage. "One must keep in mind that 'the flu' can be caused by any number of viruses," he said. "'The flu' comprises symptoms such as fever, cough, fatigue and/or respiratory discomfort caused by any number of strains of influenza and other viruses." Only the most common strains of flu have vaccines against them, DeKoning explained. Flu itself sometimes can be dangerous, especially among the elderly and people with certain medical conditions.

Sniffles and a productive cough are not 100 percent fool-proof indication that a person has not been inflicted with anthrax, either, the doctor said.

DeKoning said that people who choose to see a doctor because they do not know whether they have anthrax or the flu should retrace their activities over the past week by asking themselves the following questions:

- Did I or do I have a runny nose and/or a productive cough?
- What were my activities?

-- Who was I with?

-- Were those people experiencing the same signs and symptoms?

-- When did they start experience the signs and symptoms?

-- Do those people have runny noses and productive coughs?

-- Any unusual sores on my skin?

-- Did people I was with have skin sores?

"Your doctor will find the answers to these questions very helpful," DeKoning said. "Based on your answers, your doctor may want to consult other colleagues and perhaps perform some tests such as a nasal swab or a blood test."

In the Army, flu vaccinations will be carried out just as they are every year.

"This year, a slight delay in influenza vaccine delivery has been experienced," DeKoning said. "Upon receipt of the first shipment of vaccine at military installations, vaccination of mission critical personnel and high-risk medical individuals will begin.

"It is anticipated that sufficient influenza vaccine will be available by late November to meet all military beneficiary requirements," DeKoning said.

DeKoning said anthrax vaccine is currently not available for civilian use. Besides, inoculation against anthrax consists of six shots over 18 months, plus a booster shot every year after that.

"We should all remember that the chance of any of us coming in contact with anthrax is extremely small," he said. "Yes, we all need to be vigilant about our surroundings. However, we also need to live our lives, enjoy our freedoms and not become paralyzed by the fear of anthrax."

(Editor's note: Jim Caldwell is a writer for the TRADOC News Service.)

DoD's Top Doc Urges Flu Shots for All

by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 2001 — DoD's top doc got his flu shot Nov. 14 and quipped that he felt better already.

Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, the recently confirmed assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, urged everyone in the DoD family to get a flu shot this year.

Getting a flu shot is important for everybody to do every year, especially the elderly and people with chronic illness, Winkenwerder said. He noted these groups are more at risk of serious illness sometimes caused by the influenza virus.

He said DoD's supply of flu vaccine is "looking pretty good." He expects all military installations to have their supplies by late November. The department ordered 3 million doses this year, he said, "And we're hoping to use them all up."

Winkenwerder noted that the public generally thinks of flu as a mild disease, but in fact it can be serious. "About 20,000 people in the United States die every year of influenza," he said. "That's a bit of a frightening thought." The best way to counter that risk is to get a flu shot, he added.

"I'm a big believer in prevention and preventive health," he said. "Getting a flu shot is one of the very best and easiest ways to prevent illness."

Air National Guard Gets New Deputy Director

by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Arlington, Va. --Thanksgiving week was hardly a relaxing, reflective holiday for newly promoted Brig. Gen. David Brubaker. He put in a busy week coming to grips with his duties as deputy director of the Air National Guard.

"It feels good to be back. But it hasn't been much of a honeymoon," said the Indiana man who assumed the No. 2 position for the 106-member Air Guard two months into the National Guard's vigorous commitment to the new war against terrorism.

The pace has been fast at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., where Brubaker has moved into his 12th-floor office after receiving his first star on Nov. 15.

"September 11 gives more meaning to all of the jobs here," he observed.

Brubaker, 50, has returned to the National Guard Bureau's headquarters after commanding the Air Force Reserve Test Center run by the Air Guard in Tucson, Ariz., for the past two years. He was the Air Guard's director of acquisitions in Arlington for more than three years before that -- until October 1999.

Brubaker has filled the deputy director's job that has been vacant since last March when Brig. Gen. Craig McKinley, who has since received his second star, became the Air Force's

deputy inspector general.

"That was a good job for exposing me to all of the technology that is available and that is coming to the Air Guard," said Brubaker of his tour at the Tucson test center. The mission there is to improve the combat capability of the aircraft flown by the Air Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

"It was very rewarding to see how all of the modernization is helping us be a more capable force that is more relevant to the Air Force and valuable for the taxpayers," he added.

"It also helped to develop good relationships with colleagues in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve," he added. Brubaker earned his fighter pilot wings in March 1975 following a year of training at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, and he has since served in Air Guard units in his native Indiana, Florida and Virginia as well as in Arizona.

He earned his commission from the Air Guard's Academy of Military Science near Knoxville, Tenn., in 1973, and he received his degree in industrial supervision from Indiana's Purdue University in 1979.

He entered AMS as an Air Guard senior airman, and he is among a handful of graduates from the academy, which opened in 1971, to earn general's stars.

Brubaker grew up in Fort Wayne, Ind. He and his wife Cheryl met in high school and were married in 1973. They have two children, a married son Trent and a daughter Carley who is a college senior.

TRICARE Lowers Healthcare Costs for Reservists

by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rheem, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19, 2001 — DoD officials have enacted healthcare system changes to make life a little easier for reserve component members and their families following the Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom call-up to active duty.

The most significant change is a national demonstration project that waives all TRICARE deductibles for family members of Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom activated reservists and guardsmen for care received since Sept. 14.

TRICARE officials realized many families probably paid deductibles for their civilian health plans earlier in the year. They didn't feel it fair for them to

shoulder another financial burden just because their sponsor was called up toward the end of the year, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, regional operations officer for the TRICARE Management Activity.

Another change for reserve component members is that TRICARE will pay for up to 115 percent of what is usually allowed for care under existing guidelines. Styron said the change would help reservists who live far from active military facilities in areas that don't have TRICARE provider networks. Their families probably would end up paying more out-of-pocket if TRICARE hadn't agreed to the higher fees.

The third change is that TRICARE officials have waived the need for Guard family members to obtain nonavailability statements before receiving care from a

civilian provider. Styron said DoD acknowledges many reserve families have existing relationships with civilian providers.

Active duty family members don't need a nonavailability statement if they're far from a military facility. If they live near a military facility, however, they generally need the statement or they must pay for the care themselves.

DoD officials have explained that families of reserve component members called up for at least 30 days are eligible to use TRICARE benefits. Families of those activated for at least 179 days are also eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, which offers the most cost-effective way for military families to receive medical care. For more information on these new benefits and on healthcare for guardsmen, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

Med Command Chief Poses Bio-terrorism Questions

by **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 2001 – What kind of risk will the American people accept in regards to bio-terrorism? How does the government communicate better with the American people when a biological attack occurs?

These are just two of the questions Maj. Gen. John S. Parker, commanding general of the Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md., posed during a presentation to the Fletcher Conference, Nov. 14.

Parker and his command have been involved in supporting public health and law enforcement efforts in the October anthrax mailings.

He said the anthrax mailings to news organizations and the Senate has redefined the battlefield. "In military terms we used to say, 'detect to avoid, detect to identify the threat, detect to protect,'" he said. "And, we were thinking of working in some far-off land with a face-to-face enemy. Now, all of a sudden, the battlefield is the continental United States."

"Detect to avoid" is not really possible. People are going to have to use facilities, such as post offices. And this leads America into assessing the risks posed by biological agents, including anthrax.

"In my experiences with the recent anthrax contingency that occurred here, I learned one thing above all things," he said. "It boils down to one person who wants to know, 'Am I contaminated? Am I going to get ill? What should I do?' One person."

He said American scientists have the know-how to build equipment to detect a biological agent, but once the detector finds agent "X," the mystery really begins. "We'd better know an awful lot about 'X,' we'd better know what it is, what it's physiology is, what it's human effect is, what the therapy for 'X' is, and," Parker continued, "at

what level do we provide therapy for an exposure to 'X'."

Parker explained the idea of decontamination took on a new meaning and a higher level of urgency when the battlefield was the United States. "Decontamination of people, places, things, papers, file drawers, your favorite pencil; they all became important in the decontamination process," he said.

"Have we done enough research in the way of decontamination that it is done quickly, leaving no residues so that people can leave a building, have (the building) decontaminated and immediately return?"

As the country faces this new war, more questions must be answered. Defining the level at which contamination becomes a threat is one aspect researchers must contemplate. "Do we worry about one spore on the table?" Parker asked. "Do we worry about 100 spores in the rug? When do we worry?" The country needs to develop standards of what is safe and acceptable.

"I don't think we can guarantee no spores still exist in the Hart [Senate Office] Building," he said. "One tiny little spore is going to find some niche and survive. Now, is that a danger? Well, to some people it is."

Parker added he does not think one spore is a danger and we must identify the thresholds where people are safe. "As we walk through our world today, people are shaking hands, hugging, coughing, sneezing. Bacteria and viruses are invisible to us, but we seem to survive in a sea of pathogens that just would love to set up housekeeping in the rich environments of our physiological fluids," he said. "We seem to survive until one of those gets out of balance and we need to know when that balance is changed."

He said all Americans need information to confront bio-terrorism in the 21st Century. "The general public must have a basic knowledge of what is in their environment, how to act with it and

how to take care of it if it becomes personal," he explained.

Polls show Americans expect "zero risk" from biological agents, but can the country afford zero risk, he asked. "Getting to zero risk is an isotonic curve in which there may be not enough dollars in the future to get there," he said. "At what level of risk will a human being feel safe?"

People take risks every day. They ride motorcycles without helmets, every day a thousand more children learn how to smoke, every day 50 people die on the highways because of drunk driving, he said. "There must be a level of risk that the American public will accept because those statistics prove it," Parker said. "Now, will they accept more than zero risk in a biological event?"

Parker said communication during a bio-terrorism attack is crucial. "Communication between people, communication between the agencies, communication with our customers and with the people that are involved in the incident," he said. "We must do better with communication."

"I've been in the United States Army for 38 years," he continued. "I've been in a lot of scenarios, be they real or be they exercises. And, in the after action report of almost every single one of those scenarios or exercises, it's been, 'We could have communicated better.'"

He said the country needs to think about improved communication and invest both money and manpower in this goal, adding that law enforcement and public health officials need to resolve competing needs.

Finally, the United States needs more information and testing of defenses against biological weapons. "What we need is a national test bed [for defenses against biological weapons]," Parker said. "Not just a military test bed, but a national test bed where entrepreneurs can bring their equipment to that national test bed and have it tested against a criteria."

Bush Tells Troops He Believes in Their 'Fearless Hearts'

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 2001 - President Bush told the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., that he can't tell what course the war against terrorism may take, but he is sure of the outcome.

"I believe in the fearless hearts of the United States military," Bush told the soldiers. Bush was greeted with chants of "USA" and "Hooahs" and cries of "Air Assault" interrupted his speech. He said the United States has made a good start in the war of terrorism.

He said 27 of 30 Afghan provinces are no longer under Taliban control, and opposition groups, aided by U.S. special operations forces have cut Taliban lines of communications. "They are on the run," the president said. But much

remains to be done.

He told the soldiers the war in Afghanistan is entering its most difficult phase. He said Al Qaeda and the Taliban have taken refuge in sophisticated cave complexes located in some of the most mountainous and rugged territory on Earth. "The complexes are heavily fortified and defended by fanatics who will fight to the death," he said. "Success against these cells may come more slowly."

But, he said, the United States will prevail. "Our enemy hopes to hide until we tire," Bush said. "But we're going to prove them wrong. We will never tire, and we will hunt them down."

Bush said the American military is delivering America's message to countries across the globe. "We fight the terrorist and we fight all of those who give them aid," he said. "If you harbor terrorists, you are a terrorist. If you train or arm a terrorist, you are a terrorist. If you

feed or fund a terrorist, you are a terrorist and you will be held accountable by the United States and our friends."

Bush, who was accompanied by his wife Laura, also thanked military families for their sacrifices. "Some of you have loved ones that are deployed - or will soon be deployed - far from home in a war against terror and evil," he said. "Our nation and the world are counting on your loved ones. They are making us secure and they are making us proud."

Bush told the soldiers that Afghanistan is just the beginning of the war against terrorism. He said there are other terrorist organizations that threaten America and its allies and there are other nations willing to sponsor these groups. "We will not be secure as a nation until all these threats are defeated," he said. "Across the world and across the years we will fight these evil ones, and we will win."

Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams Stationing Plan Announced by DoD

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today the stationing plan for five additional National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2001. These teams, scheduled for establishment and certification in fiscal 2003, are a key element of the Department of Defense's overall program to provide support to civil authorities in the event of an incident involving weapons of mass destruction in the United States.

The five teams will be stationed in Alabama, Kansas, Michigan, Tennessee, and West Virginia. This brings the total number of National Guard WMD-CSTs to 32 to date.

These National Guard teams will provide DoD's unique expertise and capabilities to assist state governors in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents as part of a state's emergency response structure. Each team consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time National Guard members who are federally resourced, trained and exercised, and employs federally approved CBRN response doctrine.

Stationing criteria used to identify the new locations included coverage of major metropolitan areas based on popu-

lation density; minimizing overlap with existing WMD-CSTs and other DoD response elements; and availability of existing facilities and support capabilities.

"As the president has said, we are tightening the noose around the Taliban and the Al Qaeda and reducing the amount of real estate that they have available to move around on. We'll pursue them until they have nowhere else to run."

***-- The Secretary of Defense
(in Tampa, Fla., on November 27, 2001)***

HAWAII

Hawaii Guard families have been involved in deployments and activation since September 11 with the Army and Air National Guard. The Hawaii National Guard is planning a big Christmas Celebration in the Park on December 16th on the grounds of the Hale Koa Hotel next to Fort DeRussey beach and the Army Museum. Guard family volunteers led by the Family Program State Advisory Council will be providing a real Hawaiian Santa and his menhunes (elves) bringing all the goodie bags. A concert will be provided by the 111th Band. Lunch will be prepared by the Guard members. They will enjoy a talent show spotlighting the “stars” in the Guard. This is the first time this event is taking place.

The annual Aloha Week Festival Parade was canceled, but a “United We Stand” Parade was held. The parade drew many people in their “red, white and blue” proudly waving their flags.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the community Christmas/Santa Parades and unit Guard parties have taken on a patriotic theme.

Hawaii’s economy is struggling due to September 11. Hawaii depends on tourism and the events of that day had a major impact on us. For several Guard members, their full-time jobs relating to the tourist industry were terminated. For some, being put on active duty (to work at the airports or other State assignments) may have come as a blessing. Other Guard volunteers assisted in the Food Bank Drive and distribution of food boxes to those who lost their jobs since 11 September.

IDAHO

Idaho National Guard family volunteers including youth (approximately 60) participated in designing and decorating a Christmas tree for the Boise Festival of Trees. The trees are auctioned or sold and the proceeds go to one of the local hospitals. The volunteer leaders from around the state decided this would be a great time to work together and provide a community service. The 15 youth involved were 4 to 18 years of age. The volunteers provided close to 400 ornaments that decorated a white flock tree in the red, white and blue. The ornaments were made or donated. Each decoration contained the love, hope, and prayers of the IDNG family member who made the decoration. An eagle decorated the top of the tree. Two poems were placed on easels next to the tree – “I Am A Guard Wife” and “We Are the Guard Family.” A Viet Nam Veteran started crying when he saw the tree. The Idaho National Guard Family Program won 2nd Place for the amateur division.

In recognition of National Military Family Week the Idaho Guard Family Program held their Family Readiness Workshop November 17 & 18. The theme was “Let Freedom Ring.”

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia will participate in a Food Drive to benefit flood victims and their families. The 130th AW Family Readiness Group (FRG) supported members of the unit who were on food duty. Clothes, linens, etc., were needed provided for the flood victims.

The 130th AW volunteers and Guard members will visit State Veteran’s Hospitals during the month of December. Santa will appear at a breakfast for the children and grandchildren of unit members.

The FRG made a contribution to the American Red Cross.

The FRG continues to be a part of the briefings for families and military members being activated for Enduring Freedom.

WYOMING

Wyoming had the support of the Salvation Army immediately following the September 11th incident. They provided meals three times a day to those who were suddenly called to duty. The State Family Program Readiness volunteers took over by operating a “Snack Bar” at the Headquarters. The Air Guard received donations from local grocery stores and businesses on a daily basis.

Unit Family Readiness briefings throughout the Army and Air Guard are being held on the drill weekends. Trips are being made around the state to meet with families to help families with their needs and provide an opportunity for them to ask questions on TRICARE and other benefits.

Phone cards are being obtained through the local American Legion to assist families that have been displaced due to Airport Security or other deployments. The American Legion is helping with financial assistance, home and vehicle care.

(To include your state in the next edition of the NGB Family Program Bulletin, please submit your information to Capt. Beth Miller at beth.miller@ngb.ang.af.mil no later than December 20.)

News Notes

Other Ways to Get Behind the Troops

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2001 — With the suspension of the morale-boosting "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service Member" mail programs this year, defense officials are proposing other ways Americans can demonstrate their support for the military.

DoD officials suggest supporting the troops "by supporting the communities in which they live."

Some ideas include:

-- Visit Veterans Administration hospitals and nursing homes, coach children's sports teams, feed the homeless or volunteer for other community outreach programs. Many service members who normally do this volunteer work are now deployed.

-- Local government and business officials can request local military members to speak at community events, while encouraging citizens to learn more about America's military.

-- Citizens who know military families can offer support by reaching out to those families with loved ones deployed overseas, officials noted in the release.

-- Private organizations are developing Web-based means for citizens to show their support for the military.

-- Anonymous gifts and letters for overseas service members are no longer accepted, officials said, but people can still contribute to military relief societies.

Leadership Training

The State Family Program Coordinator (SFPC) Leadership Training course will be March 16-23, 2002, in Sedona, Ariz. We will have more information on this course in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Editorial Staff

The BULLETIN is published monthly for the State Family Program Coordinators and Air National Guard Program Managers by the National Guard Bureau Family Program office. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of the United States Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, or the National Guard Bureau.

Submissions can be sent to the Editor, Captain Beth Miller, Communications and Marketing Officer at 1411 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 9600, Arlington, VA. Telephone (888)777-7731, fax (703)607-0762 or email: beth.miller@ngb.af.mil. The **deadline** for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Quote of the Month

*"I heard the bells on
Christmas Day,
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words
repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men!"*

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

December Observances

December 13 -- National Guard Birthday

December 24 -- Christmas Eve

December 25 -- Christmas Day

December 31 -- New Year's Eve

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